

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A hygienic means comprising a sheath (1) containing absorbent material (4) to be fitted on the tip of the penis (10) and fixing strips (2) with adhesive surfaces bent to opposite sides of the sheath, the adhesive surfaces (3) of both the fixing strips being protected with a strippable rip tag (7) that can be released in the form of an elongated band allowing the user to pull the fixing strips against the flanks of his penis while fixing the means into position, characterised in that the means comprises one, single, uniform, substantially U-shaped rip tag (7) extending around over the front side of the tip of the sheath (1) and fixed at its opposite ends (8) to the adhesive surfaces (3) of the fixing strips (2), whereby the end (8) of the U-shaped rip tag (7) is bent inwardly against the adhesive surface (3) of the fixing strip (2).
2. (Original) A hygienic means as defined in claim 1, characterised in that the sheath (1) contains an absorbent material (4).
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) A hygienic means as defined in claim 2, characterised in that both the ends (8) of the U-shaped rip tag (7) are bent inwardly against the adhesive surfaces (3) of the fixing strips (2).

5. (Original) A hygienic means as defined in claim 4, characterised in that the rip tag (7) has been dimensioned such that a gap large enough for receiving the user's finger (9) forms on both sides of the sheath (1), between the sheath and the rip tag, the adhesive surfaces (3) of the fixing strips (2) being released from the rip tag by the same pulling motion by means of which the user straightens the fixing strips while fixing them into position.
6. (Original) A hygienic means as defined in claim 4, characterised in that a protruding fold or like gripping point (11) has been formed at the centre of the rip tag (7), at the tip of the sheath (1), the user being able to release the rip tag from the fixing strips (2) by pulling at the fold.
7. (Original) A hygienic means as defined in claim 1, characterised in that the end (12) of the rip tag (7) extends over the adhesive surface (3) of the fixing strip (2), forming a gripping point allowing the user to release the rip tag from the fixing strip by pulling at this gripping point.
8. (Original) A hygienic means as defined in claim 1, characterised in that the fixing strip (2) has a tip portion (6) not covered with adhesive coating (3), allowing the user to remove the means after use by pulling at this tip portion.

9. (Original) A hygienic means as defined in claim 1, characterised in that the sheath (1) and the fixing strips (2) are formed of a uniform piece made of the same material.
10. (Original) A hygienic means as defined in claim 1, characterised in that the sheath (1) is made of a fibre-based material such as paper.
11. (Original) A hygienic means as defined in claim 2, characterised in that an absorbent fibre material (4) has been fitted within the sheath (1).
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently Amended) A hygienic means as defined in claim ~~12~~ 2, characterised in that both the ends (8) of the U-shaped rip tag (7) are bent inwardly against the adhesive surfaces (3) of the fixing strips (2).
14. (Original) A hygienic means as defined in claim 13, characterised in that the rip tag (7) has been dimensioned such that a gap large enough for receiving the user's finger (9) forms on both sides of the sheath (1), between the sheath and the rip tag, the adhesive surfaces (3) of the fixing strips (2) being released from the rip tag by the same pulling motion by means of which the user straightens the fixing strips while fixing them into position.

15. (Original) A hygienic means as defined in claim 13, characterised in that a protruding fold or like gripping point (11) has been formed at the centre of the rip tag (7), at the tip of the sheath (1), the user being able to release the rip tag from the fixing strips (2) by pulling at the fold.
16. (Original) A hygienic means as defined in claim 14, characterised in that a protruding fold or like gripping point (11) has been formed at the centre of the rip tag (7), at the tip of the sheath (1), the user being able to release the rip tag from the fixing strips (2) by pulling at the fold.
17. (Original) A hygienic means as defined in claim 2, characterised in that the end (12) of the rip tag (7) extends over the adhesive surface (3) of the fixing strip (2), forming a gripping point allowing the user to release the rip tag from the fixing strip by pulling at this gripping point.
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)